



### TEACHER BY THE WAY

Inasmuch as Greek city-states were constantly at odds with one another, this collaborative undertaking by a large and diverse group of Greek communities was highly unusual.



### TEACHING TIP

Instruct the students to locate Persia, Athens, Delphi, and Thermopylae on the map on pp. xxxiv–xxxv (SE) and to find Nepos on the timeline on p. 405 (SE).

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### ANSWERS TO COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Xerxes's intentions are to conquer Greece.
2. The Athenians consult Pythia, a priestess who predicts the future.
3. Pythia advises the Athenians to be protected by wooden walls, by which she means ships.
4. Yes, the Athenians built a fleet, and won.



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Although a full Athenian citizen of the Lycomid clan, Themistocles seems to have had a non-Greek mother, hence the hostility shown to him by the noble class. He was an ambitious politician (eponymous archon in 493 BCE, general of his tribe in 490) and, in spite of repeated attempts to ostracize him (no less than 542 of the 1,500 known *ostraka* bear his name), managed to exile his opponents instead (Hipparchus, Megacles, Xanthippus, and Aristides).

However, Themistocles was able to subordinate this ambition to the good of the state as can be seen when he freely relinquished the naval command to the Spartan Eurybiades for the battle at Artemisium in 480 BCE. When the Greeks were unwilling to place their faith in another sea battle against an enemy that was plundering their cities and destroying their lands, Themistocles forced their hand by secretly sending word to Xerxes of their intentions. The Persian king responded by bottling up the Greek fleet in the bay of Salamis. This gave the advantage to the Greeks because their smaller, swifter ships outmaneuvered the larger, slower Persian vessels and won a decisive battle. Themistocles was the hero of the hour.

Nevertheless, his political enemies took the chief Athenian commands in the following year and recalled their leaders from exile. Themistocles did remain important for a time, using diplomatic delaying tactics at Sparta while Athens rebuilt its walls, an act Sparta opposed, and also Piraeus was fortified on his motion. However, his influence continued to wane, and in 471 he himself was ostracized. He lived for a while in several Peloponnesian cities that were leaning toward democracy. This disturbed the Spartans, who accused him of conspiring with Persia. He was condemned by the Athenians *in absentia* but escaped to Persia where the son of Xerxes, King Artaxerxes I, who had formerly put a price on his head, made him one of his favorites and appointed him governor of three cities. According to Thucydides, Themistocles died in Magnesia of sickness, although some say he committed suicide. His bones were carried to Attica where the Athenians demonstrated their belated gratitude by honoring him with a magnificent tomb.